

COMMISSION CONFERENCE**NOVEMBER 21, 2000**Agenda
ItemPage

I-A	Request for Proposals (RFP) – Las Olas Intracoastal Municipal Parking Lot	1
I-B	Residential Dwelling Units in the Downtown Regional Activity Center (RAC)	3
I-C	Citizens Volunteer Corps (CVC)	6
I-D	Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Seabreeze Boulevard/State Road A-1-A Streetscape Improvements Project	6
I-E	Proposal to Name the Pavilion at Holiday Park for Thomas L. Tapp, Retired Director of the Parks and Recreation Department	7
I-F	Tidal Flooding – Solar Isle and Other Low Lying Coastal Areas	8
II-A	Proposed New City Telephone Numbering System	9
II-B	Broward Sheriff's Office and City of Oakland Park – Joint Fire-Rescue Dispatch Services	9
III-B	Advisory Board Vacancies: 1. Budget Advisory Board	10
	2. Community Appearance Board (Deferred)	10
	3. Community Services Board (Deferred)	10
	4. Education Advisory Board (Deferred)	10
	5. Unsafe Structures & Housing Appeals Board (Deferred)	10
IV	City Commission Reports: 1. Traffic Signal on 62 nd Street	10
	2. 14 th Avenue Canal	10
	3. County Bond Issue	11
	4. Loan Report	11
	5. Construction Sites	11
	6. Campaign Signs	11
	7. Royal Palm Trees	12
	8. Fire Department – Master Key for Elevators	12
	9. Greenspace in Harbour Inlet	12
	10. Public Comment Time at City Commission Meetings	12

Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
11. Las Olas Hospital	13
12. Riverland Shopping Center – Code Enforcement	13
13. Fort Lauderdale Lawn Bowling Club	13
14. Juvenile Needs	14
15. New County Maintenance Building	14
V City Manager Reports:	
1. Juvenile Justice	14
2. Parking and Streetscape – Sistrunk and Broward Boulevards	14
3. Commercial Activities on Waterways	15
4. National League of Cities Campaign to Promote Racial Justice	15
5. City Office Space	15

COMMISSION CONFERENCE

2:02 P.M.

NOVEMBER 21, 2000

Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz and Smith

Also Present: City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Police Sergeant

I-A – Request for Proposals (RFP) – Las Olas Intracoastal Municipal Parking Lot

A discussion was scheduled on the drafted RFP for the proposed development of the Las Olas Intracoastal Municipal Parking Lot site. The City Manager introduced *Mr. John Amodeo*, Chair of the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board. He stated that the Board had finalized its recommendations on the RFP proposal previously presented to the Commission, which included the comments and recommendations mentioned at that time.

Mr. Amodeo pointed out that the RFP allowed flexibility as to what could or could not be done on the site. He also noted that the back-up memorandum had been divided into sections for greater clarity during discussion. Commissioner Smith asked if the Board was excited to see

this moving forward. Mr. Amodeo replied that the Board was very excited about this progress, and he was glad the Commission supported flexibility in the RFP.

Mayor Naugle referred to the South Side development program. He questioned the inclusion of a conference center. Mr. Chuck Adams, Manager of Redevelopment Services and Marine Facilities, recalled that the Commission had discussed whether the emphasis should be on residential uses or contain a partial hotel component. He explained that a conference center facility could be incorporated at least, but only within a residential component. Mayor Naugle inquired about parking requirements for that type of use. Mr. Adams did not have that information, but parking would certainly be required. He envisioned just be a meeting facility containing no more than 100,000 square feet, and he noted that a size limitation could be included in the RFP. Mr. Adams also pointed out that a limit could be included as to the size of a grocery or convenience store use.

Commissioner Smith recalled the lengthy discussion about hotel v. residential uses, and he was not sure where the discussion had left off. Mayor Naugle thought a conference center with 100,000 square feet would be way too big. Commissioner Smith agreed. The City Manager advised that had been a potential use suggested by Dr. Catonese during the Design Seminar on November 2, 2000, in conjunction with another potential use the University had in mind. The intent of the RFP was not to rule out the possibility if a joint venture developed.

Mayor Naugle pointed out that the best proposal would be accepted in the end, so he was not sure this issue made any major difference. However, he said he would hate to see anyone waste a lot of time on a proposal for a conference center. Commissioner Katz concurred. Mayor Naugle asked if it mentioned that possibility for the north side. Mr. Adams said he had understood the idea to involve the south side, but that could be altered and the word "small" inserted.

Commissioner Smith did not think the Commission had been very clear in its direction as to the uses on the south side and whether or not it should include some limited hotel use. He believed the consensus was that the project should be a condominium, but it could have a little bit of hotel type uses. Commissioner Katz thought the Commission had decided to wait and see what the marketplace proposed. Mr. Amodeo agreed that was the reason flexibility had been allowed in the RFP. He pointed out that these issues could be evaluated as proposals were submitted.

Mayor Naugle did not think a condominium conference center made much sense. Mr. Adams stated that the conference center element could be removed from language relating to the south side and see what happened. Another issue to which the Board and staff had deferred to the Commission was contained on page 1 of the RFP and related to the idea of a combined proposal for both sides. Commissioner Smith supported the idea of a combined proposal, particularly since the south side would have to subsidize the north side to a certain degree. Mayor Naugle felt the issue should be left open but with an indication that a combined proposal would be preferred. It was agreed.

Commissioner Smith asked if a public pedestrian promenade was included in the RFP. Mr. Adams replied that it was contained in Part IV relating to the technical specifications. It basically indicated that it was the City's intent to retain the existing use of East Las Olas Circle, and language referred to a promenade had been included.

Commissioner Smith inquired about the schedule. He suggested that the RFP be released in January with City Commission discussion in late March or early April. Mr. Adams advised that was workable, and it was agreed. Commissioner Smith also preferred a greater focus on a public promenade in the RFP, and the City Manager said it could be revised to indicate that a project would have to include a promenade.

Ms. Heather Keith, Chairman of the Marine Advisory Board, stated that the Board's concern related to parking and loading for the marina facility. Of particular concern was the parking underneath the bridge and on the north side of the lot. As she understood it, the parking under the bridge would not be moved. However, the marina would need 30 parking spaces to conform with the Code on the north side. She believed the idea was to move those 30 parking spaces into a garage not at grade level, but the Board felt the parking should be maintained at grade level to keep the marina competitive with others in the area. If that was not possible, Ms. Keith hoped there would be at least permitted access for loading, which was currently provided at the north end.

Commissioner Smith asked if the Board supported the idea of a pedestrian promenade. Ms. Keith replied that the Board did favor anything that encouraged waterfront access as long as loading areas were still provided for the marina at grade level. Mayor Naugle believed the RFP indicated that the design had to be sensitive to the marina use, and it was the consensus that a sentence be added indicating that a loading/off-loading zone for the marina had to be provided.

Mr. Adams reported that the RFP could be released on January 5, 2001, and the RFP would be presented to the Commission for formal approval on December 12, 2000. It was agreed.

Action: Approved as discussed.

I-B – Residential Dwelling Units in the Downtown Regional Activity Center (RAC)

A discussion was scheduled on the remaining number of residential dwelling units permitted in the Downtown RAC, the proposed comprehensive plan amendment to allow continued residential development, and the proposed timing of such amendment. The City Manager noted that a written report had been distributed.

Mr. Chris Wren, Office of Community and Comprehensive Planning, advised that the report contained options for increasing the number of units in the Downtown RAC, and he pointed out that density was not regulated in RACs the way it was in other parts of the City. Typically, a land use designation would allow a certain number of units per acre, but in the RAC, a density pool dictated the density. As such, they were allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, triggered by site plan approval.

Mr. Wren stated that the Northwest RAC was primarily the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights CRA less the area east of the railroad tracks. The Downtown RAC extended from Searstown down the railroad tracks and across 2nd Street westward to the Avenue of the Arts, down to Marshall's bridge and across 7th Avenue down to Andrews Avenue to the River and up Federal Highway. He explained that these were 2 different RACs with 2 different pools of residential units to tap.

Mr. Wren advised that the land use designation set in 1989 for the Downtown RAC had envisioned 5,100 residential units downtown. At present, there were 1,516 existing units, 1,700 units had been allocated to site plans, and 1,409 units were wrapped up in various stages, for a balance remaining of about 400 units. Mr. Wren clarified that the 1,409 units were not technically wrapped up until site plans had been approved, so there were actually just under 2,000 units that had not yet been officially allocated. He said the Northwest RAC had 10,900 residential units designated, of which 6,370 were existing or proposed, leaving about 4,500 units remaining for allocation. Mr. Wren stated that the focus of today's discussion was the downtown vision for residential use.

Commissioner Smith understood that site plans could be approved by the Development Review Committee (DRC) in some of the affected areas. Mr. Wren agreed, and single-family residential units could be approved through the usual building permit process. Commissioner Smith asked if the pool took into consideration units that were demolished. Mr. Wren replied that the pool was credited for existing units. Commissioner Smith wondered if some of the units in process might never be built. Mr. Wren imagined some would not be built, but he did not have a formula for predicting that number. Nevertheless, he thought it would be fair to say that some would not be constructed although he did not know the absorption rate for high-end residential units.

Mayor Naugle asked how long approval of a flex unit remained valid. Mr. Wren stated that site plans did not expire for 18 months once approved. He referred to exhibit 1, which included Las Olas River Residences and the Sun Sentinel FQD, involving about 800 units, with site plans that would expire in April or May, 2002.

Ms. Cecelia Hollar stated that a "clearing and grubbing" permit had been pulled for Marshall's Point, which kept the site plan approval active. Mayor Naugle asked when construction would actually have to start. Ms. Hollar stated that South Florida Building Code requirements were being followed that allowed 60 days to perform certain activities. Mayor Naugle wondered if a more stringent requirement could be developed to prevent abuse. Ms. Sharon Miller, Assistant City Attorney replied that different criteria could be established as to when site plan approval expired. She agreed to investigate the idea further.

Mr. Wren said the question before the Commission was the vision for downtown residential uses. The 1989 plan envisioned 5,100 units, but staff did not believe that was enough for the downtown area for the next 50 years. He advised that there was a surplus of units in the Northwest RAC, but he believed the majority of those were needed to undertake the important plans envisioned for the CRA. Nevertheless, some units could be transferred to the Downtown RAC by amending the City's and the County's Comprehensive Plans. Mr. Wren envisioned a concurrent application process, and the submittal deadline was March, 2001, so it would not be in effect until late January, 2002.

Mr. Wren stated that in the longer range, the residential build-out density should be addressed. He said staff would suggest a consultant to examine that issue and consider important factors such as how much residential density was envisioned in the next 50 years; how much density was envisioned in the other RACs to make mass transit successful; and, the impacts on schools. In addition, downtown affordable housing was important, and most of the projects under consideration lately were upper end developments. Mr. Wren felt it was important to develop some sort of strategy to provide for the different social strata.

Mr. Wren noted that this would be a concurrent application with the City and the County and, because a consultant was necessary, the second application period had to be taken in October of 2001. He expected that process to be completed in August, 2002. He also pointed out that the subject was an area of the City that was not represented by a Commissioner today. Therefore, Mr. Wren recommended that this item be presented again in January for final disposition when a District III Commissioner was elected. In the meantime, staff could start meeting with all of the other agencies involved, such as the Regional Planning Council, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), etc. in order to meet the deadlines mentioned today.

Commissioner Smith was disappointed that it had become this critical before the issue was presented to the Commission. He did not know who was at fault, but there was finally some action, and the 230 units proposed for development by JPI was not included on the list. There was also a plan for development of the area at Broward Boulevard and Federal Highway without units available. Commissioner Smith was very concerned and felt this should be considered an emergency. He thought staff should pursue the first 2 options immediately, and he believed there would be time for the District III Commissioner to provide plenty of input. Mayor Naugle noted that the District III Commissioner had designed this gap in representation, so he saw no need to hold anything up.

Mr. Wren advised that staff would proceed immediately, and he believed there might be some interim solutions that would eliminate the gap in the allocation of units. He explained that he had been exploring some agreements with the State with the knowledge that formal applications would be processed in order to obtain some interim relief. It was his understanding that the Planning Council was exploring alternatives, and staff was prepared to move forward quickly.

Commissioner Smith felt units that would likely not be built should be removed from the list. Mayor Naugle agreed. Commissioner Katz had been told that about 25% of the allocated units could be coming back into the pool. She also agreed staff should proceed as soon as possible with lobbying efforts. Mayor Naugle felt the DDA should be brought on board, and Mr. Wren advised he had been working with the DDA. Mayor Naugle pointed out that “lip service” was paid to the Eastward Ho! Initiative.

Commissioner Hutchinson wondered if this would have any bearing on the Southern RAC. Mr. Wren advised that County Commissioner Rodstrom had been reluctant to approve an extra 400 units, but he planned to incorporate the South RAC in the consultant’s study because more units might be desired in that area depending upon the 50-year vision.

Commissioner Smith felt this issue should be given top priority. Mayor Naugle noted that there were over 1,700 units that had not yet been officially allocated, and he inquired as to the size of the Jackson Tower project. Ms. Hollar advised that plans had not yet been submitted, but she believed about 400 units were envisioned. She also clarified that there was a call-up provision related to the vested units in the Downtown RAC.

Commissioner Katz inquired about the timeline for site plan approval. Ms. Hollar advised it was about a 3-month process, on average, with a 30-day call-up period. Mayor Naugle believed that was optimistic. Commissioner Katz wondered if the process could be made smoother or faster. Commissioner Smith believed Ms. Hollar had streamlined the process a great deal and hoped her efforts would continue in that respect.

Mayor Naugle asked if a requirement could be imposed calling for obtaining building permits within 6 months of site plan approval, followed by continuous progress. He was concerned that developers would get units allocated for projects that were not really serious. Mr. Wren said he would be glad to explore that idea. Mayor Naugle acknowledged that 6 months might not be the appropriate period of time, but he looked forward to staff recommending a strategy.

Mr. Carlton Moore asked how many units were envisioned with respect to Options A and B. Mayor Naugle did not think it would be a good idea to “rob” the Northwest RAC to add units to the Downtown RAC. He also felt it should be a low number, if any. Mr. Wren did not think transferring 500 units would be detrimental, but setting such a limit could eliminate a project that came in with 501 units, for example.

Commissioner Smith believed the development community in Flagler Heights felt 750 additional units were necessary to create the critical mass required. Mr. Chris Barton, Development Services, advised that staff was aware of 3 projects that would be coming in within the next few weeks involving about 1,000 units. Mr. Wren pointed out that there were still 1,700 units available now, and staff would monitor the situation.

Action: As discussed.

I-C – Citizens Volunteer Corps (CVC)

A discussion was scheduled on a proposal from Commissioner Smith to create a CVC in Fort Lauderdale. Commissioner Smith said he had been considering this idea for about a year because it was so difficult to get volunteers. He felt this would be a real community building exercise that would help bring everyone together and create cohesion. Commissioner Smith advised that materials had been sent out to a number of people throughout the community, and there were so many things that could be done if a group of 1,000 citizens was formed on whom everyone could count. He also pointed out that students were required to volunteer for a certain number of hours, and they were having difficulties finding community service projects to fulfill the graduation requirement.

Mayor Naugle was reminded of the “Make It Shine” effort a few years ago. He wondered if this concept could also be useful in helping people who were behind in their bills who needed help maintaining their properties. Commissioner Hutchinson saw no reason why not.

The City Manager agreed this was a wonderful idea, but it would be necessary to explore issues related to union jobs and liability. He did not expect major difficulties with respect to displacing any union jobs, but volunteers would be considered City employees in the event of injury or if they caused injury to others in the process. The City Manager noted that supervision could be provided, but costs would also have to be explored, although he did not expect that to be a major obstacle.

Commissioner Smith felt attempts should always be made to obtain supplies through donations, and he felt the beach wave wall should be the very first project addressed. He was also concerned about the appearance of Sunrise Boulevard, which was the entrance to the beach area. Mayor Naugle felt that should be the first project. Commissioner Smith asked Commissioners to make suggestions for appointees to a steering committee to get this going, and he thought a project on Sunrise Boulevard might be too great for a first effort. He also felt the wave wall project would provide a venue for kicking off the effort and encouraging additional participants.

Action: Approved as discussed.

I-D – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Seabreeze Boulevard/State Road A-1-A Streetscape Improvements Project

A discussion was scheduled on the FDOT’s schedule for the construction of improvements to Seabreeze Boulevard/State Road A-1-A. Mr. Hector Castro, City Engineer, explained that beach residents were concerned about traffic impacts from this project during the tourist season. Over the last 2 weeks, staff had been holding meetings to explore different methods of mitigating impacts. One concept was to delay the work until after Easter, but the FDOT did not feel that was the best option. Mr. Castro noted that an acceleration plan had been outlined in the written report, and there were various individuals present who wanted to provide input. Commissioner Hutchinson added that a letter had also been received from Gill Hotels.

Mr. Jim Wolf, of the FDOT, felt the back-up memorandum adequately detailed the concepts that had been explored. He stated that a \$150,000 incentive had been included in the contract if the contractor completed the major paving work by January 21, 2001. He advised that this amounted to about \$10,000 per day up to the \$150,000 maximum and, for every day past that date, the contractor would have to pay \$10,000.

Mr. Wolf advised that the FDOT was also prepared to offer the contractor a lump sum bonus of \$150,000 in addition to the incentive/disincentive clause mentioned for completion by January 21, 2001. There was also an incentive for putting additional crews on the job. Mr. Wolf noted that extended working hours and Saturday work was mentioned in the back-up memorandum, and he believed the financial package would accelerate the project.

Mr. Wolf stated that aspects of the project that would occur after January 21, 2001, were not "traffic intensive," although the paver block sidewalks was a critical element and involved 2-day closures that would disrupt traffic. He recommended that this work be deferred until the summer and that the City pay the estimated \$60,000 cost.

Commissioner Katz asked if the City was being asked to take on any of the additional incentive costs, and Mr. Wolf replied that the FDOT had decided to accommodate those costs despite some earlier discussions along those lines.

Mr. Fred Taylor, of the Beach Council, stated that its members were basically satisfied with the arrangement as outlined and appreciated the assistance the City had provided.

Commissioner Katz referred to the \$60,000 cost to the City for the pavers. It was recommended that some of the money come from General Fund Contingencies, with additional monies coming from the community. Mr. Castro stated that the idea was to seek matching funds from the merchants, if possible. The City Manager advised that if matching funds were not forthcoming, the \$60,000 could come from Contingencies.

Mayor Naugle asked if the City could receive credit towards the \$60,000 cost if the construction of the major work extended beyond January 21, 2001. Mr. Wolf stated that if the project ran past January 21st by 6 or more days, the FDOT would pay the \$60,000 cost.

Commissioner Smith inquired about staging activities. He reported that residents of the Venetian Condominium were hopeful the project would not be staged in front of their building. *Mr. Don Little*, Project Engineer for the FDOT, said that the staging area had not yet been identified, although a couple of locations were being considered. Commissioner Smith preferred using a portion of the South Beach parking lot.

Mr. Castro reported that staff had talked with the 3 homeowners' associations that would be impacted, and they all favored this accelerated plan. Mr. Taylor added that *Mr. Steve Queoir*, of the Chamber of Commerce, had also worked with the community on this plan since the traffic impacts would affect the entire City. Mr. Queoir felt this had been a good cooperative effort to get this project done sooner rather than later.

Action: Approved as discussed.

**I-E – Proposal to Name the Pavilion at Holiday Park for Thomas L. Tapp,
Retired Director of the Parks and Recreation Department**

A proposal from the Parks, Recreation & Beaches Advisory Board was presented to name the pavilion at Holiday Park after Thomas L. Tapp, retired Director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Action: Approved.

I-F – Tidal Flooding – Solar Isle and Other Low Lying Coastal Areas

A discussion was scheduled regarding tidal flooding and drainage issues on Solar Isle and in other low-lying areas, as requested by Commissioner Smith. Mr. Hector Castro, City Engineer, stated that staff had been trying to deal with this issue for many years. He displayed photographs depicting the gravity of the situation and stated that various types of control devices had proven unreliable, expensive, and difficult to maintain or had failed to yield the desired benefits. Mr. Castro proposed the installation and testing of a variety of new technologies during the upcoming vernal equinox with a report to the Commission at the beginning of the summer.

Mayor Naugle wondered how many homes were on Solar Isle. *Mr. Bill Joyner* replied that there were 120 homes in this location. Mayor Naugle inquired about the lowest elevation and the height of the street. Mr. Castro believed the centerline of the street had an elevation of about 4.3' on Riviera Isle, and the seawall cap was at an elevation of 3.4'. Mayor Naugle believed the long-term solution would be to raise the elevations, and it could be addressed through an assessment project paid for over a 20-year period from various funding sources. He pointed out that any other approach would be nothing but a "band aid."

Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Castro to explain why the backflows did not seem to work. Mr. Castro explained that the check valves had to work much of time resulting in high maintenance needs, and they tended to fail during the periods of greatest need.

Mr. Joyner believed a properly maintained valve would be of some use, but the problem was the 8" and 10" pipes through which roots had grown through and that had been abandoned. However, the grates were still in the streets.

Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, stated that staff was committed to making improvements, although he thought Mayor Naugle might be right in that these efforts would not work in the long run. Nevertheless, he believed some improvements could be achieved. Mayor Naugle suggested preventative maintenance before the spring and fall tides. Mr. Joyner stated that 1 little barnacle was all it took to cause a pipe failure.

Mayor Naugle wondered if it would be useful to calculate the figures associated with a special assessment project to raise the street in the meantime. Mr. Joyner saw no harm in that, but he felt it should be a City-driven project. Mr. Kisela stated that figures could be presented to the Commission when a status report was provided as to the interim measures explored. Commissioner Smith understood the Coconut Isle station had been a failed attempt to address the issues, and Mr. Castro advised it was not cost-effective. Mr. Kisela noted that one benefit was that the standing water was rainwater rather than brackish water that could be damaging to property.

Mayor Naugle inquired about tidal flooding on Cordova Road at 12th Street. Mr. Castro believed some of the problems there would be alleviated by the new paving after the sewer project. Mr. Joyner referred to the lift station on Riviera Drive. He thought it might have worked if larger pumps had been utilized. Mr. Kisela advised that it could be hydraulically sized to deal with storm water, but that caused environmental problems in Sunrise Lake. Mr. Castro noted that the area was also mostly impervious, so "time of concentration" was very short. As a result, there was a tremendous flush of water all at once, and the pumps could not keep up with the flow.

Mayor Naugle asked that part of staff's strategy involve maintenance before high tide events. Commissioner Smith understood new technologies would also be explored, along with development of figures for a special assessment project.

Action: As discussed.

At 3:28 P.M., Commissioner Smith left the meeting. Commissioner Hutchinson left at 3:29 P.M.

II-A – Proposed New City Telephone Numbering System

A report was presented on the proposed new telephone numbering system for the implementation with the new telephone switch for City offices and facilities.

Action: Approved.

At 3:30 P.M., Commissioners Smith and Hutchinson returned to the meeting.

II-B – Broward Sheriff's Office and City of Oakland Park – Joint Fire-Rescue Dispatch Services

A report was presented on the feasibility of a proposal for a joint fire dispatch system with the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) and the City of Oakland Park. Mayor Naugle thought this sounded like a great idea if it could be done. Commissioner Katz recalled when the City had taken back these responsibilities, and she wanted the Fire Chief to explain the difference between that proposal and this one. Chief Latin said the difference this time would be a joint effort to develop greater control from the standpoints of training, protocols and quality assurance. The intent was to ensure there were personnel in the Dispatch Center who could examine problems and issues, and it would remain within Fort Lauderdale to provide control.

Commissioner Smith said his only concern involved an event that had occurred recently on a flag football field when a child had broken his collarbone. He stated that the operator had not known where Mills Pond Park was when he had called 911 and had asked for an address in order to respond. As it turned out, the call had gone to the County dispatch center because he had used a cellular phone. Chief Latin stated that the call takers would be located in the Fort Lauderdale Dispatch Center, and City staff did know Mills Pond Park; however, all of the personnel could be better trained. Mayor Naugle noted that this was a temporary difficulty because technology was coming so that locations could be pinpointed when cell phones were utilized.

Chief Latin explained that staff was only seeking the Commission's authorization to explore this idea, and a proposal would be presented at a later date if it were feasible. Commissioner Katz was hopeful this could save the taxpayers a lot of money and looked forward to the proposal.

Action: Approved.

III-B – Advisory Board Appointments

1. Budget Advisory Board

Mayor Naugle, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Hutchinson and Commissioner Katz wished to reappoint their existing appointees to the Budget Advisory Board.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

2. Community Appearance Board

Action: Deferred.

3. Community Services Board

Action: Deferred.

4. Education Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

5. Unsafe Structures & Housing Appeals Board

Action: Deferred.

IV – City Commission Reports

1. Traffic Signal on 62nd Street

Commissioner Katz asked if the traffic light for 62nd Street could be placed on an agenda as soon as possible. The City Manager agreed to schedule the item for December 12, 2000.

Action: Subject to be placed on December 12, 2000 agenda.

2. 14th Avenue Canal

Commissioner Katz requested an update about the 14th Avenue canal. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, stated that the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) grant funding cycle commenced in April, and staff envisioned seeking funding of a project estimated at \$1 million. He noted that the property acquisition portion of the project had been included in the County's Bond Issue if that was necessary. Mayor Naugle noted that there had been numerous manatee sightings in this canal. The City Manager advised that staff could provide a timeline in this regard.

Action: Staff to provide report.

3. County Bond Issue

Mayor Naugle hoped staff would aggressively pursue all of the Fort Lauderdale projects promised in connection with the County's Bond Issue. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, stated that dialogue had already been initiated with Mr. Steve Sommerville, of the County. Commissioner Smith suggested the appointment of Tom Tapp to the Committee. Mayor Naugle requested a schedule of the Committee appointments.

Action: As discussed.

4. Loan Report

Commissioner Katz requested an update once per year on all the loans being provided through the Economic Development Department, such as the EZ Loans. Commissioner Smith agreed this information would be helpful with the inclusion of SHIP and CDBG funding. Mayor Naugle noted that some were grants rather than loans. The City Manager understood the Commission wanted a complete rundown on all of the active funding and whether or not terms and conditions were being fulfilled as agreed. Mayor Naugle thought the Finance Department probably had some kind of information available on a quarterly basis. The City Manager agreed this information could be provided with respect to funds outside the normal reporting sequence.

Action: Staff to provide reports.

5. Construction Sites

Commissioner Smith said he was still receiving complaints about construction sites, primarily involving single-family or townhome construction. He reported that some of the contractors were not providing trash cans, and there were "jiffy johns" out on the swales. Commissioner Smith did not know if there were certain standards imposed or if they were being enforced. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, agreed to investigate.

Action: Staff to investigate.

6. Campaign Signs

Commissioner Smith believed everyone was bothered by the campaign signs all over town that were not removed and subsequently fell down. Commissioner Katz wondered if there was a County ordinance that addressed this issue. The City Clerk reported that Florida Statutes covered campaign signs, and Code Enforcement staff were following up with courtesy calls. If the calls were ignored, the signs would be removed from public property. Commissioner Smith noted that some were on private property along main thoroughfares. Mayor Naugle suggested that letters be sent to the candidates to remind them about the signs.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested that bonds be posted to deal with the signs if the candidates failed in their responsibilities. Commissioner Smith wondered if the City could regulate political signs. The City Clerk stated that the City had regulations pertaining to the sizes of signs. Commissioner Smith asked staff to explore a regulation prohibiting the erection of campaign signs until 30 days before an election.

Mr. Ken Strand, Nurmi Isles resident, was concerned about yard signs along Las Olas Boulevard. Mayor Naugle did not believe they were allowed since they were considered “snipe” signs. Commissioner Smith liked Commissioner Hutchinson’s idea of calling for bonds. Mayor Naugle thought fines would help.

Action: Staff to investigate.

7. Royal Palm Trees

Commissioner Smith reported that Royal Palm Trees were starting to get a “bug.” He noted that there were a lot of those trees on municipal property, and there was a systemic pesticide that was effective. He asked staff to check the trees. Mayor Naugle suggested that an article be placed in the upcoming issue of “Focus” for the benefit of property owners.

Action: As discussed.

8. Fire Department – Master Key for Elevators

Commissioner Hutchinson said that she had recently brought up the subject of master keys for elevators for use in the event of fire. She understood staff had looked into it and learned that New York City had included this requirement in the Building Code it adopted in 1989. The result was that one key opened all the elevators in the City so they could be recalled to their lowest levels in emergencies.

Action: None.

9. Greenspace in Harbour Inlet

Commissioner Hutchinson reported that she had received a call yesterday from Ben Guenther, of Harbour Inlet. She stated that the neighborhood wanted to look into naming the green space under the bridge in recognition Sam Switzer.

Action: Staff to investigate.

10. Public Comment Time at City Commission Meetings

Commissioner Hutchinson reported that many of her constituents felt the Commission should allow a public comment time during at least one of its meetings each month, preferably at the beginning of the meetings, to air their problems. Mayor Naugle said that he usually tried to get the City Manager to help people with individual problems. If that did not work, however, the District Commissioner could request that a topic be placed on a Commission agenda. He felt that was best because it gave everyone time to properly research and prepare for an issue that was going to be considered.

Mayor Naugle said he had observed this type of practice in other cities, and they often became sessions where the public “bashed” staff. He noted that some people liked to take advantage of the element of surprise when they were on television. Mayor Naugle did not believe these sessions were productive because staff was not prepared to deal with the issues that arose at that time.

Commissioner Katz agreed with Mayor Naugle. Commissioner Smith thought the idea might be workable if some controls were utilized, such as submission of an outline to the City Manager about a 2-minute address. Speakers should be required to stay on topic and not to be rude or obnoxious. Commissioner Smith thought some of the best ideas came out of this type of open forum. Commissioner Hutchinson said she just wanted the Commission to think about the idea.

Commissioner Katz said that in her former life as a journalist she had covered several cities in Broward County, and she had found these portions of meetings to be downright embarrassing. They had also gone on and on, and she had found it counterproductive. If the Commission wanted to do something like this, she felt it would have to be very tightly structured. Commissioner Hutchinson said she was willing to sit down with the City Manager to see if some structure could be devised. Mayor Naugle noted that Commissioners often raised concerns mentioned by their constituents during this Commission Reports section of the Conference Agenda.

Action: As discussed.

11. Las Olas Hospital

Commissioner Hutchinson said she often received complaints about the basketball court at Las Olas Hospital from surrounding neighbors. She stated that the hospital's use had been changed somewhat. Commissioner Smith believed it was being operated as a mental health facility. Mr. Pete Witschen, Assistant City Manager, agreed he would look into the situation. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that some of the parking lot had been fenced off, and there were rumors that sexual predators were being housed in the facility.

Action: Staff to investigate.

12. Riverland Shopping Center – Code Enforcement

Commissioner Hutchinson wanted to take this opportunity to compliment Code Enforcement staff on their efforts with respect to the Riverland Shopping Center. She mentioned several staff members who had been working with the neighborhood in this respect, and she had received a letter of thanks from Elizabeth Hays. Mayor Naugle said he had spoken with the property owner about seeking assistance from Economic Development to provide some upgrades.

Action: None.

13. Fort Lauderdale Lawn Bowling Club

Commissioner Hutchinson reported that she had received a letter from Mr. Robert Banks, of the Fort Lauderdale Lawn Bowling Club, who had some concerns. She turned the correspondence over to staff to investigate.

Action: Staff to investigate.

14. Juvenile Needs

Commissioner Smith understood Jimmy Cox was losing some State funding for juvenile programs at the West Lauderdale Baptist Church, such as the Matthew Project. Mayor Naugle thought that might be something that could be picked up with the new Children's Services Tax. Commissioner Smith believed the Department of Juvenile Justice was headed in the wrong direction by taking away money from juvenile crime prevention activities. Mayor Naugle believed the subject had been included in the legislative package. Commissioner Smith suggested that the lobbyist be asked to address this issue specifically. Mayor Naugle was not aware of the Committee assignments yet, but he thought there was probably a committee working on juvenile justice issues.

Action: As discussed.

15. New County Maintenance Building

Commissioner Hutchinson referred to the new County Maintenance Facility at the corner of 26th Street and 4th Avenue. She reported that there was standing water on the site and asked staff to investigate.

Action: Staff to investigate.

V – City Manager Reports

1. Juvenile Justice

The City Manager reported that he had made a trip last week to meet with Secretary Bankhead, and the meeting had gone well in terms of examining alternatives to expanding the Juvenile Detention Facility. He believed Secretary Bankhead was receptive to considering other sites, and the City Manager had asked the City's lobbyist to approach the Board of Trustees, which owned the site.

Action: As Discussed.

2. Parking and Streetscape – Sistrunk and Broward Boulevards

The City Manager reported that he had spoken with the County Administrator about facilitating more parking signs on Sistrunk Boulevard, and he had been receptive to better signage and perhaps some curb markings. He had also discussed the Broward Boulevard Streetscape project with the County Administrator. The City Manager reported that the cost of lighting and pavers was estimated at \$1.4 million, with the City's share at \$840,000. He advised that the County would allow the City to pay that money at the rate of \$84,000 per year for 10 years.

Commissioner Hutchinson said she preferred the higher lights and wondered how much they cost. Mayor Naugle thought the idea had been to consider some minor assessment project. The City Manager reported that a lot of the people who would benefit were not willing to participate. Mayor Naugle said he had been referring to an imposed assessment. Commissioner Katz preferred to examine other options. Mayor Naugle thought the County's plan was a good one.

The City Manager said that per a request from Commissioner Smith, he could explore the idea of the County doing an assessment. However, it was necessary to give the County the “go ahead” very soon, and a funding recommendation could be presented later. Commissioner Katz did not want to take the money from the Contingency Fund. Commissioner Smith agreed every other option should be explored before money was taken from Contingencies. The City Manager said staff would determine the number of property owners along the roadway.

Action: As discussed.

3. Commercial Activities on Waterways

The City Manager reported that he had recently heard some concerns from former Mayor Bob Cox about commercial activities on waterways. He advised that he would provide the Commission with a report after examination of the issues and input from the Marine Advisory Board.

Action: City Manager to provide report.

4. National League of Cities Campaign to Promote Racial Justice

The City Manager reported that Fort Lauderdale had signed up along with 200 other cities for the National League of Cities Campaign to Promote Racial Justice. He advised it would require some work from staff and elected officials, but he was committed to dealing with these issues. Mayor Naugle noted that the Campaign was being pursued throughout communities and not just through city structures. The City Manager thanked Mayor Naugle for bringing this Campaign to his attention.

Mayor Naugle reminded everyone to bring warm clothes to the League of Cities Conference in Boston next week. He encouraged Commissioners to “parcel out” the different workshops and sessions to ensure coverage of all the different topics and materials. There was also a session for those who were newly elected, which he had found valuable in the past.

Action: None.

5. City Office Space

The City Manager recalled that he had indicated at the last meeting that he had planned to relocate the EEO Office, but Jack Seiler had subsequently requested the same space. In the alternative, some space had been located that seemed to have the right space and location. Mr. Pete Witschen, Assistant City Manager, reported that space was available for \$14 per square foot in the 400 Building. Staff had also examined space on the second floor of the City/County Credit Union building at a cost not to exceed \$11 per square feet, but there were some parking challenges to overcome. He sought the Commission’s conceptual approval.

Mayor Naugle thought \$11 per square foot was a great price for the space on 3rd Avenue. The City Manager noted that the EEO, the Diversity Office, and the OCCP would be relocated.

Action: Approved. Staff to commence negotiations.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 P.M.

NOTE: A MECHANICAL RECORDING HAS BEEN MADE OF THE FOREGOING PROCEEDINGS, OF WHICH THESE MINUTES ARE A PART, AND IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.